



Some changes, such as adding family members or changing your address, will still require filling out the 2001 Medical and Dental Coverage form included in your open enrollment packet mailed to you earlier. Lost the form? Simply go to the HCA web site and you can download the form and print it out. www.wa.gov/hca/PEBB/PEBBemployee.html



Staff and community individuals may use the work station to download bulletins, type a resume or complete state applications on line. The work station is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 to 4:00.

Retsil Report is published for the staff and residents of the WA Veterans Home.

2:00 - 5:00 Veterans Day Meal - AMVETS Post 1,
Meeting Hall, 5717 South Tyler St
Tacoma, WA 98388 (Corner of Tyler &
56th). Residents and all veterans invited

Preferred Alternative

Phase 1
New 240 Bed
Skilled Nursing
Facility

Phase 2
Renovate
Bldg 10
for Light
Nursing
(50 beds)

Build New
Light Nursing
Facility(ies)
(50 beds)

See State-of-the-art on page 2



So what happens next?

By Bob Jones, Superintendent

As you’ve no doubt heard, Retsil is being proposed as the site for a new, 240-bed skilled nursing facility. While this certainly comes as exciting news to the staff and residents at both Homes, we need to be aware there are details to discuss and questions to answer.

A 1998 feasibility study confirmed what most of us already knew – our current facilities can no longer support our mission to provide high-quality, cost-effective, long-term care to our veterans. Many of the buildings at both Homes are functionally obsolete and are in desperate need of upgrades to meet earthquake requirements. In response to these findings, the

Legislature directed the department to come up with a solution, including consolidating services. After months of gathering data, reviewing other programs and homes in other states, the project consultants determined Retsil would be the most appropriate site for the new facility.

So when will all this happen? First, we must gather support from staff, residents and the veterans’ community. Over the next few weeks, I will be meeting with each of you to get your feedback and there will be other opportunities for input. Our director is already in the process of meeting with veterans groups. While the Resident Council has been briefed, there will be ample opportunity for residents to ask more questions and offer comments when a mock-up of one of the new rooms will be on display here later this month.

We must also get the governor’s approval and if approved, we start the legislative process. Assuming the Legislature approves 33 percent of the total cost, we then look to our congressional delegation in Washington DC to help with the federal matching funds. And that puts us about one year from today.

When taking everything into account such as design, permits, environmental review, etc., the first shovel of dirt might be turned within two years. Actual completion of the entire project? Five to eight years is a pretty safe bet. Obviously, there’s a lot of work to be done between now and then.

State-of-the-art

Continued from page 1.

constructed prior to the demolition of the existing facilities.

“This state-of-the-art facility would respect residents’ privacy,” said Jones. “In addition, it would enhance their quality of life and provide a secure environment to help retain residents and staff.”

The department is currently meeting with interested stakeholders, veteran organizations, employees and lawmakers. A final draft of the master plan will be presented to the Office of Financial Management for the governor’s recommendation by November.

WDVA Strategic Goals

- ★ Improve the quality of care and services for veterans and their families.
- ★ Continue investing in staff, and provide the tools that result in high-quality services.
- ★ Maximize resources to honor the nation’s debt to veterans.
- ★ Review core processes to anticipate and influence future needs.

New Associate Superintendent



Barbara Culley
Associate Superintendent

Barbara Culley has joined the staff of the Washington Veterans Home at Retsil as Associate Superintendent.

Barbara’s interest in the health care profession began while growing up in Poulsbo, where as a teenager she volunteered at Martha & Mary Nursing Home.

“It was during this time that I first noticed people try to hide and ignore the aging,” said Culley.

Being at the Veterans Home is a major step in her professional goal of learning all aspects involved in the continuum of health care. Culley has been with Swedish Hospital in Patient Registration, Group Health as a business manager and most recently with Premera Blue Cross as a Senior Project manager responsible for their strategic planning.

“I feel very honored to have the chance to try and make the experience of living at Retsil better for veterans,” said Culley. “I look forward to getting to know all of the residents and staff, and hope to be able to use my prior experiences to become a viable part of the team.”

Culley assumed her duties on Oct. 2, 2000.

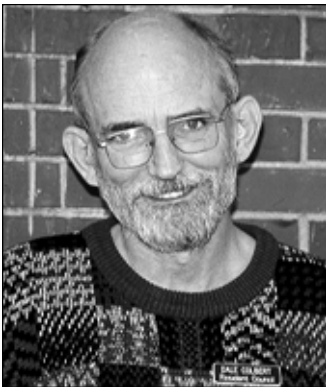
Resident Council Elects New Chair

The Resident Council at the Washington Veterans Home in Retsil has a new chairman.

Dale Colbert, a Navy veteran with two tours of duty in Vietnam, is a graduate of Lakes High School. He spent the majority of his non-military career in the medical field, living in California and Colorado before returning home to Washington.

Colbert has high hopes for the resident council during the next six months, hoping to improve communication between residents, council members and the administration.

“My biggest job is to try really hard to improve the attitude of residents toward the council,” Colbert said. “We want to let them know that we are accessible to help them and we have information available to help keep them informed so they can take advantage of the services we have - like the new cable system.”



Dale Colbert

Letter to the Bremerton Sun

Thanks for care

To the Editor:

During the past 18 months, my brother, Olaf Moen, was a resident at Retsil Veterans’ Home. Recently, he had become bedridden and required 24-hour care. He passed away Aug. 2. He was buried at Retsil Cemetery with full military honors, including a 21-gun salute.

The care my brother received during the time he was at Retsil was exceptional. The nursing staff and the nurses’ aides on the first floor of Building Nine are to be commended for their loving care and gracious attitude. Their help and kindness is very much appreciated.